

**In the Abstract**

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**ABSTRACT**

A fuel cell system for supplying at least one electric load with electric power includes at least one fuel cell and an energy storage device, and also a switching device for disconnecting and connecting the fuel cell system from and to the at least one load. The switching device has at least two switches, so that the fuel cell and the energy storage device can be disconnected and connected from and to the at least one electric load independently of one another. In addition, a method is provided for operating such a fuel cell system.